

# PLANE NEWS

Summer 2002

## Palomar Noise Study To Begin

A unique process to ensure full public input regarding McClellan-Palomar Airport's aircraft-related noise impacts is now in place. A Part 150 Noise Compatibility Study for the Airport pursuant to receipt of an FAA-sponsored grant and will be underway this Fall.

While such a study typically runs 18 to 24, the County anticipated the need for full public input and conducted a "roundtable" effort to ensure a quality product to address community concerns.

The *PAR 2000* (Palomar Airport Roundtable) *Final Report* was approved for inclusion in the study by the County Board of Supervisors in late April. This action allows the airport to process recommendations that may be achievable within current County resources. One recommendation was to hire a full time Environmental Noise Specialist for McClellan-Palomar. Russ Couchman, a pilot with a degree in Aviation Management was appointed in November. Since the Board's action, Couchman met with various pilot groups to discuss aircraft operations-related recommendations from the report. He is also currently working on the *PAR 2000* recommendation to place a noise abatement sign depicting the Runway 24 Alpha departure at the approach end of Runway 24 clearly visible to departing pilots. The Alpha departure calls for a heading of 250 degrees off Runway 24 until ½ mile offshore.

Other Voluntary Noise Abatement Procedures request pilots to hold turns until reaching 800', and to maintain 2000' until descending to pattern altitude, using the north pattern when possible. Couchman interfaces with airport users, pilots, the general public, and businesses on the airport. He also maintains and operates a sophisticated flight tracking/noise monitoring system.

## Feeling Secure With OB

Gates at County airports are locked for good reason. Access is restricted to facilities. Security is the purview of Olivier "OB" Brackett.

As Airport Security and Safety Coordinator, OB develops security plans for airports. Included is ensuring airport fences are properly installed and in good condition, that gates and locks work properly and preventing runway incursions. He also oversees private security officer contracts.



OB is no stranger to security or airports. He spent 20 years in the Marine Corps, where his first duty was armed protection of United States assets and his second was as an air traffic controller. But he thinks he's found a home at County airports.

"I love it. There's a real dedication among everybody to provide good customer service here," he said. "Having come from the Marine Corps where commitment is a big part of what we're about, the level of commitment at the County is right in step with what I'm used to."

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## Ramona Runway/Taxiway Project Completed

With a simple scissors snip, San Diego District 2 Supervisor Dianne Jacob brought to completion the new 1,000-foot runway extension.

That extension allows larger fire fighting aircraft to take off with heavier loads. Ramona is home to the California Department of Forestry and U.S. Forest Service aerial fire attack base, the busiest such facility in the nation.

The \$6 million project includes runway and taxiway extension and resurfacing, new run-up area at the east end of the taxiway, new compass rose, realignment of the south taxiway and drainage improvements.



*Supervisor Dianne Jacob cuts ribbon for Ramona Airport runway extension with the help of other local dignitaries.*

## AIRPORTS HOST SPRING EVENTS

### Ramona Air Fair Draws 36k

Navy F/A-18 jets, World War II propeller-driven planes, Russian trainers, antique and experimental planes, and hot air balloons highlighted the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Ramona Air Fair the first weekend in June.

A record crowd of an estimated 36,000 visited the three-day event.



*Hot air balloons soar above historic airplanes.*



*Navy F/A-18 demonstrates capabilities*



*Crowd meandered through vendor booths, static displays and watched flight demonstrations.*

### Wings Over Gillespie

Military aircraft, flight demonstrations and World War II heroes marked this year's Wings Over Gillespie at Gillespie Field. Visitors saw historic planes and helicopters, USO shows and more

at the event presented by the Commemorative Air Force, Air Group One.



### Fallbrook Avocado Festival



Ultra-lights, those cloth and aluminum aircraft that fold up and store in your garage, buzzed into Fallbrook Airpark for display during the Avocado Festival and airport open house. The multi-colored birds drew the crowd's attention.

Antique and historical airplanes and helicopters were also crowd favorites at the event.

*Visitors check out ultra-light airplanes at Fallbrook.*

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## Ramona Sewer Project Underway



*Small aircraft makes a final approach at Ramona Airport where work began in mid-June on the sewer line project. Groundbreaking for the new aircraft control tower is slated for September.*

## Fuel Truck Now At Fallbrook



*Andy Moretti staffs the fuel truck at Fallbrook Airpark. Viki Cole, Inc. operates the truck. Cole is also the contract manager and fuel supplier at Borrego Valley Airport.*

## Destination **San Diego:** Western Flight—Full Service At Palomar

*By Jessica Eslinger, Staff Writer*

By 10 a.m., morning drizzle subsides at Western Flight, and between runway operations planes are shuttled, fueled and repaired. In the lobby, constant phone ringing and two-way radio conversations can be heard over the clamor of a dozen pilots, caterers, passengers and staff.

As a business utilizing the busiest single runway airport in the nation, Western Flight performs a tremendous amount of work at McClellan-Palomar Airport.

Western Flight is a full service Fixed Base Operator (FBO). It supplies pilots and transients with a variety of amenities, such as aircraft maintenance, overnight hangar space, charter service, hotel reservations, shuttles and rental cars. Just minutes from Carlsbad State Beach, Legoland, Del Mar fair grounds, numerous golf courses and business parks, Western Flight is an ideal landing pad for visitors to the area.

“We’ve worked at building a reputation of warmth and hospitality,” said Ginna Reyes, Western Flight’s General Manager. “We want our customers to feel good about being here and good about coming back.”

Thirty years ago, the property belonged to a government-contracted FBO called Flight International. After two decades of business, Monty Testerman, an employee and small business owner, decided to buy the area and revamp its corporate culture.

With Testerman as president and a staff of 12, Western Flight was born and built around customer service, employee satisfaction and awareness of Carlsbad as a flight destination.

The entire company is actually owned by the people who run it. Testerman offers his employees stock ownership plans. For their tenure at Western Flight, employees receive an increasing percentage of the company’s stock. Over the years, maintaining a workforce of “employee owners” has kept the turnover rate extremely low.

Currently, Western Flight has 25 employees and serves between 155 and 160 thousand customers annually. With business booming, future growth of Western Flight is foreseeable.

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Western Flight partners with neighboring businesses to attract and maintain customers, as well as keep the surrounding population happy.

“We’ve all been proactive and that’s reflected in groups that have formed and issues solved by the airport task force,” said Reyes.

Testerman, Reyes and all of Western Flight’s staff have helped bring thousands of people to McClellan-Palomar Airport and San Diego County.



*Ginna Reyes*



*Western Flight crew (from left): Dart Testerman, Andrew Wignot, Danielle Rose, Lazardo Nissenson, Shalana Pohlman, Sandi Murtishaw, Monte Testerman and Ginna Reyes*

## Changes at Palomar

*Earth moving equipment grades slope to improve stormwater conditions and appearance.*



You’ll notice some changes the next time you visit McClellan-Palomar Airport. Bulldozers and graders are fixing slopes and the parking lot’s changed.

Phone calls started coming in to the airport manager’s office almost as soon as earth moving equipment showed up at the east end of the facility. Callers wanted to know what kind of “expansion” was going on.

“It’s just maintenance on the slope, not expansion,” said Manager Floyd Best. “We’re grading to meet stormwater regulations and, at the same time, enhancing the appearance.”

Another noticeable change at Palomar is in parking. The small two-hour-limit lot in front of the terminal is open again. It was closed after the September 11 attacks last year. Federal Aviation Administration officials had to approve the reopening. The passenger drop off driveway is also open again.

“With the short-term lot in operation again, we’ve been able to get back the longer-term spaces we lost,” Best said. “These steps make it more convenient for our customers.”

The three-day parking lot was repaved and restriped.



*Sheriff’s Deputy David Nunn is one of several officers providing armed security at Palomar Airport until a permanent contract is in place for security.*

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## Compass Points

County Airports continues to improve our eight-airport system at record pace. We recently completed the long awaited runway extension at Ramona Airport, started construction of a sewer and will begin construction of an air traffic control tower this Fall.

Design for reconstruction of Taxiway "A" at McClellan-Palomar Airport is complete and construction of this important project is also scheduled for Fall.

Installation of an Automated Weather Observing System at Gillespie Field is underway, the FAA is expected to site equipment for a new LDA/DME soon, design for improvements to Runway 27L has begun, and we anticipate a contract for improvements to Runway 27R shortly. The Airport Layout Plan Narrative update for Gillespie is well underway.

We recently received several proposals for hangar construction at both Borrego Valley and Fallbrook Airports. A contract for a Master Plan at Fallbrook Airport is expected by the end of Summer.

As we improve our airports, it is vitally important to consider their impact on surrounding communities. The economic impact of airports is tremendous. According to a 1997 Master Plan for Palomar, the airport was a source of annual gross revenues of over \$100 million dollars and resulted in a value added, or net new production related to the airport of \$88 million. Additionally, spending and output supported 1,270 jobs within the service area of the airport, with a payroll of \$33 million. We will receive current economic data related to Gillespie Field during the ALP Narrative process.

We must also consider the noise impacts related to flight operations on surrounding communities and do our part to reduce the impact, where possible. This includes determining and instituting measures designed to reduce the impact of noise, and compliance with these measures by airport users. We all have an important part in this process.

In this regard, an article in this issue of Plane News discusses our current noise abatement efforts at McClellan-Palomar Airport. We will regularly include articles regarding noise abatement at County Airports in future issues.

## Tail Section

*On the move: **Mike Carson** is the new head of maintenance for all eight County airports, **Vic Sigafus** joins the ops staff at Palomar Airport, Roger Griffiths transfers from Palomar to Gillespie Field ops... **Tanya Hertz**, student worker at Ramona Airport, received high praise for her painting of the airport used in the Ramona Air Fair posters and program. Manager **Richard Selinger** presented the painting to Supervisor **Dianne Jacob** during ribbon-cutting ceremonies for the runway extension project...From **Leann Lardy**: Past and present Airports staff and their families and friends participated in the annual Multiple Sclerosis Society walk to raise funds to fight the devastating effects of MS. Their team, Panacea, was one of the top fund-raising groups in the event. Participating were **Juli Azucena**, **Sunny Barett**, **Paula Darland**, **Sylvia Gustafson**, **Rick Jenkins** and Lardy...On April 18, the **San Diego Aerospace Museum** sponsored the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative "Doolittle Flyover" at Gillespie Field...During runway extension construction at Ramona Airport, **Chief Steve Butler** and his California Department of Forestry aerial firefighters moved to temporary digs at Gillespie Field. That move kept fire protection in San Diego County...New leaseholders were selected for **Borrego Valley Airport**—details in a future Plane News issue...At Fallbrook: **Dick Steere** is building six new hangars.*